



the
St. Paul's
Press

June - July, 2010

Quench

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Are YOU a Good Samaritan

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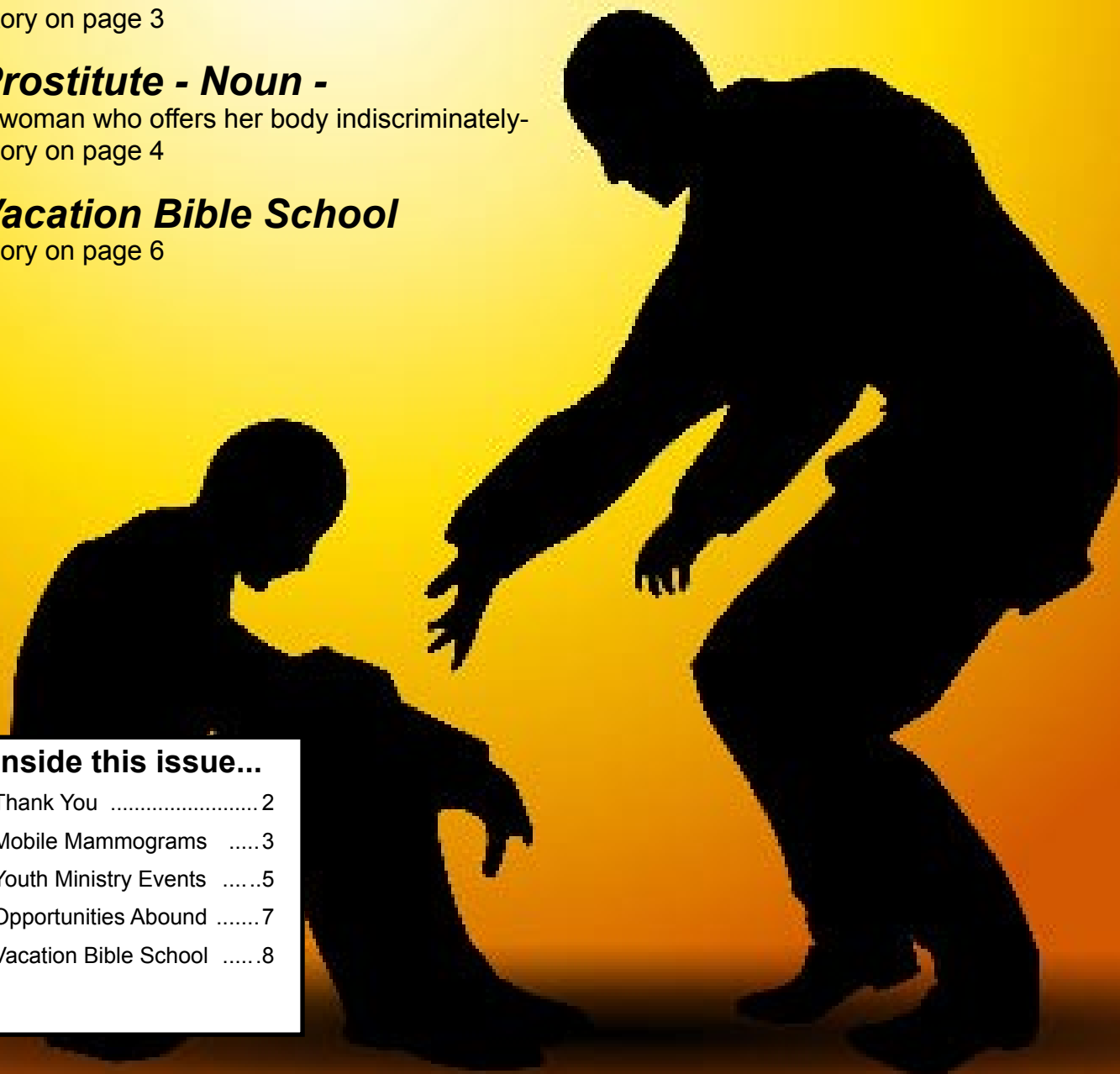
Prostitute - Noun -

A woman who offers her body indiscriminately-

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2 Community Groups,
1 House church,
10 families-some

with little ones, 15 couples and over 50 individuals. What do they all have in common? These are the members of our congregation who have served the local community of Decatur over the past three years. What did these people do? They were able to bless people by giving away "Free Parking" and "Free Bottled Water" during the Decatur Celebration. Who would have ever thought that so many people could be blessed by these two simple gestures?

But not only did members of the congregation help donate their time and love for others this weekend, we also had members donate many, many cases of bottled water. We even had a few local businesses donate flats of bottled water and bags of ice to keep the bottled water cold.

The local residents who parked in our parking lot could not believe that we were doing this for free. Then, to get asked if they would like a free bottle of cold water as well. Wow! Many people wanted to give us a donation for this, but our volunteers all said the same thing, "God's love is free and so is the parking." We all know in today's world, it seems nothing is free anymore. It is such a great feeling to be able to give away something free and do it with love.

If you have never been able to be a part of this event in the past three years, it is not too late. St. Paul's will be involved in the Decatur Celebration again. We will be giving away free parking and free bottled water. But, we need your help in both donating the water and donating your time to help in the parking lots. We will be collecting the water donations during the month of July. Bring them to the table in the fellowship center at Wood Street. You can also sign up there to help volunteer in the parking lots. It is a lot of fun. You can volunteer as a family, a small group or a ministry team. Show God's love to the city of Decatur and be blessed while you are doing it.

"... but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:14

If you would like more information about this event you can contact Gloria Greene, Director of Community Life at 423-6955 or e-mail her Gloria@stpaulsdecatur.org.

FREE PARKING!

Because God's love is free!



St. Paul's Lutheran
352 West Wood Street, Decatur
www.stpaulsdecatur.org

Thank You

On April 19 Dr. Geter Bonutti did a double knee replacement surgery on me at St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital in Effingham, IL. Now I'm going through rehab at Decatur Memorial Hospital for a full and complete recovery.

I would like to thank God for a quick recovery. Thank you to all of my St. Paul's friends who sent beautiful flowers, for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and personal visits which meant a lot to me. The transportation and all of the delicious food were very helpful. I appreciate Pastor Wray giving me communion in his office, and Pastor Rob allowing me to use his cell phone number and minutes. Also thank you to the lay leaders, Miles and Randy, for seeing me at my home.

God has really blessed me with good Christian friends and St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a great church of which to be a member.

God Bless you,
Thomas Grimes II

The family of Art Grace would sincerely like to thank Pastor Wray, Pastor Rob and our entire St. Paul's Church family for your prayers, cards, flowers, and support throughout this difficult time. We would also like to thank all those who worked and donated food for the funeral luncheon.

Are YOU a Good Samaritan?

By Eric Brei

We asked two of our St. Paul's members, Norm Stivers and Dave Gendry, to answer the following questions about the Good Samaritan Inn since they have been a vital part of its ministry for several years. This is what they had to say.

What is the mission of Good Samaritan Inn Inc. (G.S.I.)?

Norm: *The mission of G.S.I. is to maintain a community program to serve nutritious meals to the hungry and economically disadvantaged. We serve a hot meal every noon, seven days a week. This meal is provided to all who come to the G.S.I.*

Dave: *This is the mission statement from GSI: The mission of the G.S.I., Inc. is to maintain a community program to serve nutritious meals to the hungry and economically disadvantaged.*

As you can see the mission is clear and those who work closely with the G.S.I., Inc. know it well.

How long have you been volunteering or working with the G.S.I., Inc.?

Norm: *I began serving on the Board of Directors in the Fall of 1999. St. Paul's has been volunteering at G.S.I. since 2004.*

Dave: *I have served on the Board of Directors for over two years and have been a volunteer for approximately six years.*

Both of these men have volunteered and continue to work closely with G.S.I. because they both want to serve the Lord.

Why did you get involved with the ministry at G.S.I., Inc.?

Norm: *Stan Metz from St. John's Episcopal called Debbie Heinkel at St. Paul's and wanted to know if anybody would like to join the Board of Directors at G.S.I. She asked me and I attended a meeting and saw what they were doing and have been very involved since.*

Dave: *I was interested in volunteer work which gave me the opportunity to be of service to the disadvantaged in our community. As a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church it was a way for me to reach out instead of focusing inward.*

Norm and Dave were able to catch the mission of G.S.I., but more importantly they understand what it means to reach out.

What has been the biggest joy that you have experienced by serving with G.S.I., Inc.?

Norm: *Seeing and meeting our clients and that they are getting a good hot meal. For many this is the only meal they get for the day.*

Dave: *Helping to carry out our Lord's command to "feed the hungry."*

Meeting the needs of others is what it is all about and these two, along with the others that serve with G.S.I., Inc. get it and enjoy doing it.

What is one thing that someone can do to help out G.S.I., Inc.?

Norm: *We always need volunteers to prepare and serve the food. G.S.I. doesn't receive any donations from the United Way and less than 2% from local or federal government. All of our donations are from individuals or churches.*

Dave: *There are two things you can do: 1. Volunteer to work at the Inn. 2. Provide financial support to the Inn.*

We would like to thank Norm, Dave, and all the other volunteers, who give of their time and treasures to ensure that the hungry in our community get fed. If you would like to help out the Good Samaritan Inn, Inc. in some way, you can contact Norm Stivers or Dave Gendry, both members of St. Paul's, or you can contact Good Samaritan directly at 429-1455. G.S.I. has recently moved to a new location which is two blocks west of Grace United Methodist Church. If you have not been to the new facility, you need to check it out. To give you an idea as to how much you can help with a little, for a donation of just \$24 a year, you can feed one person for a year.

"Sheila Rudat will be leaving the position of Director of Children's Ministry at St. Paul's at the end of June and will be transitioning out of that position over the next month. We appreciate Sheila's commitment to this ministry over the past nearly five years and pray that God will bless her, Todd and their family in future ministry."

Prostitute – noun – a woman who offers her body indiscriminately

By Sarah Buescher

On Saturday, June 19th at 7:30 p.m. I am going to go out into the streets of downtown Decatur with a team to meet prostitutes.

In Matthew 28:19 Jesus commands us to go and make disciples of all nations. In addition to the command to make disciples, Jesus also calls us to welcome strangers, visit the lonely, and feed the hungry. Wanting to be faithful to that charge we constantly look for ways to reach more people with His love. That is why I am heading out to the streets. There are some people in our community who may feel like strangers, who may feel sick and lost and who are in need. There are some precious women in our community who need to hear a few kind words and the truth of the Gospel.

I do not intend to go and take meals to these women, but I intend to greet them, listen to them and offer words of comfort. These words will offer more than temporary satisfaction, and they feed more than the body. They are the same words that Jesus told us: that our sins are forgiven and that we are His children. He has loved each of us and called us by name. So, now we can call others with His love.

We here at St Paul's believe that if we can build the home then we can change the world. In order to build well, you need a firm foundation. In Ephesians 2:19-21, Paul reminds us that we are members of God's household built on the firm foundation of Christ Jesus, who is our cornerstone. We have the joy of knowing who our foundation is and this opportunity to have that certainty and joy as well.

So, what are we waiting for? I am asking you to take a step out of your comfort zone with me. I am in need of members of the household of God to go out into the streets of Decatur to talk to some of these women, and if the opportunity is there, to pray with them. I want to show them that we care about them and that God cares about them.

We have been shown time and time again God's love and grace towards us. Now, it is our turn to show others that same grace. If this seems like too big of a task or if you are wondering "what could I possibly say to these women?" you can still help. You can come to the church and pray for those of us who will be in conversation with these women and pray for open and receptive hearts in the women themselves. Please consider helping in one of these two ways so that we can spread the love of God in our community.

For more information or to join us please contact Sarah Buescher at sarah@stpaulsdecatour.org, or call the church 423-6955.

Women's Christian Network

3rd Wednesday of each month at the Decatur Club from 12:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m..

□ social time. The all-inclusive lunch is \$10.

Upcoming speakers:

June 16th—Sarah Buescher

July 21—Alissa Henkel

August 18—Angela Corrigan

September 15—Nancy Minton

October 20—Jill Walker

To reserve a seat, please contact Glenda Williamson's office by e-mailing gloria@glendawilliamson.com or by calling 420-1080. Please make reservations by 11:00 am the Tuesday before the event. Register and bring a friend, co-worker, or neighbor who would enjoy a break in her day!

Mission Statement: "My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely Christ, in whom are hidden all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:2-3

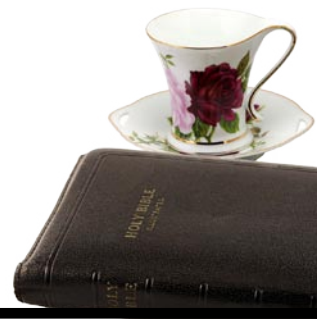


Mobile Mammograms

June 28th

St. Paul's is bringing in the mobile mammogram unit from DMH for a day. You need to have made an appointment before June 4th by calling DMH'S Centralized Scheduling Department.

You must be 35 or older and you can't have a history of breast cancer or any other breast complaints to use this service.



Youth Ministry Events

Sunday Night Youth Nights - All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to come and hang out in the youth room and the gym from 6:30-8 p.m. There will be a structured Game time and God time and then the rest of the time will be Hang time and Chow time. The dates for Sunday Youth Nights for the summer:

June - 13 & 20

July - 11 & 25

August - 8, 15, 22, & 29

June 20 and July 11 will be special youth events centered around the Capital Stewardship Journey. Watch E-news and announcements for more details.

For more information on any of these events, please contact Eric Brei at 412-2806 or ericb@stpaulsdecatur.org.



LSA News

The LSA collects the following: Campbell's UPC's for Education, General Mill's Box Tops for Education, and printer cartridges. Save all year long!

SUMMER SCRIP SCHEDULE

Drop off Scrip orders by 9 am

June 7

June 21

July 12

July 26

Aug. 9

Aug. 23

Pick up Scrip orders by Noon

June 11

June 25

July 16

July 30

Aug. 13

Aug. 27

Volleyball Camp

July 5th—9th

3rd—6th Grades: 3:00 to 5:00 PM

7th-8th Grades: 5:30 to 7:30 PM

9th-12th Grades: 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Cost \$30.00

Interested in Girl's Volleyball? Sign up for this skills camp at the LSA gym hosted by Coaches Mike Anderson and Gale Cooley. Forms can be picked up in the school office.

Registration

The June registration rate is \$250.00 (per student K-12). It will go up to \$350.00 in August. Space is limited in many classes. Families not currently at the LSA are invited to consider the LSA. Set a time to meet with Mr. Karsten and hear about the new student scholarship 50% discount for the first year of enrollment.



Vacation Bible School is such a great opportunity to share the love of Christ with Christians and non-Christians. It can take the form of day camp and includes games, crafts, bible lessons, music and other activities. VBS is a great outreach event and we love to decorate to fit the theme.

As soon as VBS happens in the summer we are already thinking about the next year's topic. There are so many publishers that produce VBS curriculum. In late summer this is the opportunity to really read up on the material and the themes. Which one will catch the children's eye the most? The past few years we have chosen material from Group Publishing. They have wonderful Christ-centered lessons that are theologically accurate. The children love the music and the special Bible buddies that they get each day of VBS. Another big part of planning for VBS is to decide on the budget, dates, timetable, and time of day. There are certain weeks during the summer where the children and their families have more free time. I decide on the date and begin promoting it in January so that students and volunteers can get it on their calendars. Our program is normally held during the daytime from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We choose this because we get an abundance of children and we have a large number of volunteers who are able to help.

Our average attendance for children is 350 different students throughout the week. We also have over 125 volunteers during the week. The cost for curriculum, snacks, decorations, etc for VBS is huge. We have been blessed over the years with a generous VBS church budget. All churches are concerned about tight budgets and being able to get donations and memorials for VBS has really helped offset the cost. VBS is such an outreach to people and we don't want to charge a registration fee that could deter them from coming.

Children and adults are so blessed from their week spent at Vacation Bible School. This year has the theme of High Seas Expedition and will be an exciting one to teach and decorated with a nautical look. VBS is an outreach opportunity so invite someone to attend. It is open to all children from ages 3 years to entering 6th grade. The fun starts at 9:00 am and will end at 12:00 noon each day.

Please register your child or volunteer online at www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/stpaulsdecatour or call Sheila Rudat, Director of Children's Ministry at 423-6955. This will be a life-changing adventure!

Old Kings Orchard

by Sheila Rudat

Another special outreach we do each year is a Vacation Bible School for the Old Kings Orchard community center here in Decatur. This summer will be our 6th annual VBS for the community center and the students who attend. Our average attendance in the past has been between 50 and 60 participants. We use the same theme as the St. Paul's VBS and are able to do many of the same stations with the children at OKO. Because Old King's Orchard is part of the park district meals during the summer, they have lunch and snack incorporated into the day. This year our VBS will be held on Tuesday-Thursday, July 6th-8th from 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m.. The summer programming at Old King's Orchard runs the same days and times during the summer and this will help to maintain consistency. The center has many regular volunteers as well as their Director, Joyce Keller. We try to remember the center in many St. Paul's events such as Faith Factory or God's Gene Pool community group giving them donations over the years.

If you would like to be involved in the outreach VBS at Old Kings Orchard during these three days, please contact Sheila Rudat, Director of Children's Ministry at 423-6955 or Sheila@stpaulsdecatour.org.



Opportunities Abound!

Ushers Needed

Ephesians 4:16 reminds us we all need to do our part as we grow up into Him. Currently we need ushers for all services at Wood St. and SPL North.

Become a working part of the body. Call or e-mail Laura at 423-6955 or laura@stpaulsdecatour.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive

**June 15, 2010
12 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

For your convenience, you may reserve a time to donate by calling the church office at 423-6955.

Our Ministry By the Numbers

For March and April, 2010:

| Date | Attendance | Giving |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| 3/14 | 776 | \$23,113.54 |
| Lent 3/17 | 187 | |
| 3/21 | 785 | \$25,883.86 |
| Lent 3/24 | 174 | |
| 3/28 | 876 | \$28,197.00 |
| M. Thur. 7pm | 220 | |
| Good Friday | 500 | |
| Easter 4/04 | 1361 | \$47,262.84 |
| 4/11 10am | 754 | \$26,928.00 |
| 4/18 | 773 | \$25,447.61 |
| 4/25 | 804 | \$33,117.10 |

Full financial statements are available in the black magazine rack on the wall by Jan Allen's desk.

Musicians Needed

If you can read music, and play the guitar, bass, keyboard or drums, and would like to serve in this dynamic ministry, contact Laura Mueller at 423-6955 or laura@stpaulsdecatour.org

Volunteer Central

Visit Volunteer Central on our website by going to www.stpaulsdecatour.org. Place your cursor over the menu button "Getting Connected" then select "Volunteer Central."

There you'll find a list of all our current needs and also be able to see all of the areas in which you can serve.

Special Birthdays For Special People

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| June 4 | Cordts, June |
| June 4 | Minton, Kenneth |
| June 5 | Wenger, Elva |
| June 14 | Schuman, Dick |
| June 17 | Corley, Valeta |
| June 17 | Hendricks, LaVonne |
| June 22 | Pratt, Ella |
| June 26 | Robertson, Dorothy |
| July 8 | Neuendorf, Jean |
| July 9 | Ryan, Dorothy |
| July 11 | Grace, Lyetta |
| July 18 | Schaefer, Alma |
| July 20 | Kircher, Mariana |
| July 25 | Oestreich, Rosalie |
| July 28 | Lange, Luella |
| July 28 | Schnake, Jemy |

If you would like to send a card or note to any of the above feel free to call the church office at 423-6955 to get their current address or use our new on-line pictorial church directory.

Members Residing in Nursing Homes

Decatur Rehabilitation Center
Betty Brackett

Lincoln Manor
Meta Horton
Ruth Klingler

McKinley Court
Lorraine Egebrecht
Marie Hendrian

Aspen Ridge
Marjorie Reinhold

Fair Havens Christian Home
Marge Buckles
Donna Kubow
Lois Fogleman
Tony Kovaleski
Dorothy Robertson
Edna Wernsing

Heritage Manor
Anna Connours
Glenn Harris

Heartland Health Care
Marilyn Johnson

Eagle Ridge
June Cordts
Sophie Dunnigan

Imboden Creek Living Center
Eunice Carroll
Hazel Colclasure
Vera Grabb
Martha Shull

Imboden Creek Gardens
Frances Schanfelft

Oxford House Apartments
Ella Pratt

Decatur Manor Healthcare
Janice Hall
Sharon Marques

Friendship Hill
Betty Kelly

Liberty Village, Clinton
Jim & Ruth Bolhorst

The Glenwood, Mt. Zion
Don Johnson, Sr.

Eastview Terrace, Sullivan, IL
Billie Rasar



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
352 West Wood Street
Decatur, IL 62522
(217) 423-6955
Fax: (217) 423-6959
www.stpaulsdecaturn.org

Build the Home. Change the World.

Newsletters are now published every other month. They are available to be picked up in the fellowship area.

“High Seas Expedition” VBS

June 21st – 25th from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.

At High Seas Expedition, kids explore the mighty love of God on a journey that will change them forever! High Seas Expedition is filled with incredible Bible-learning kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the High Seas Expedition activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

Your kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project called Operation Kid-to-Kid™ that will let the kids in our community blanket the world with God's love.

Stop by St. Paul's office to get your VBS CD for \$5.

Please register your child online at www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/stpaulsdecaturn or call Sheila Rudat, Director of Children's Ministry at 423-6955. This will be a life-changing adventure!

